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IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE  
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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **WOMAN INDICTED FOR IMMIGRATION FRAUD SCHEME**

**U.S. Citizen submitted falsified applications to INS to obtain  
legal immigration benefits for illegal alien clients**

**Chicago, IL** - Scott R. Lassar, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, together with Brian R. Perryman, District Director for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Chicago, announced the indictment yesterday of a Chicago woman for allegedly committing immigration fraud against the U.S. government.

Anayasin Patricia Cornejo Perez, a.k.a. "Patricia Perez" and "Patricia Neri," age 42, of 2750 S. Central Park in Chicago and a naturalized U.S. citizen from Mexico, was indicted on 8 counts of visa fraud and one count of making false statements to the government. Perez operated "Centro de Servicios Profesionales," an immigration counseling business located first at 4107 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street and then at 3910 West Fullerton. Between 1991 and 1997 she allegedly assisted numerous illegal aliens from Mexico in the preparation and submission to the INS of fraudulent immigration applications to obtain permanent resident status and work authorization benefits for which they were not entitled.

According to the indictment, Perez charged her clients between \$1,500 and \$2,500 to prepare the false applications, which contained information regarding the client's fictitious relationship with a U.S. citizen or permanent resident spouse or parent to

establish eligibility to remain in the United States. Through her immigration counseling business, Perez was able to obtain legitimate documents relating to U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents without their consent, and then used these records to create the fictitious relationships for her illegal alien clients.

The fraudulent petitions included false marriage certificates showing that the illegal client had married a U.S. citizen in Mexico, as well as birth certificates falsely identifying legal permanent residents as the client's parents. Perez also coached her clients to make false statements to INS interviewers, and offered to find women who were U.S. citizens or permanent residents to pose as the spouses of her clients, the indictment alleges.

"We are focusing our enforcement efforts on those criminals who operate immigration fraud schemes in our city," said INS District Director Brian R. Perryman. "It is our job to ensure that immigration benefits only go to those persons who have abided by our nation's laws."

The public is reminded that an indictment contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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